NABARD Loan to Bihar

494. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has provided Rs. 380 crores for farm loans in Bihar during the current year to boost the Rabi crop; and

(b) if so, the extent of disbursement of the funds and expected results in terms of increase in production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) With a view to extending the credit support to the Comprehensive programme of the Government of Bihar for revitalising the cooperative credit structure and for implementing their Rabi programme, NABARD has so far sanctioned short term credit limits of Rs. 255.26 crore on behalf of 33 Central Cooperative Banks for seasonal agricultural operations during the current year. They have also sanctioned a limit of Rs. 16 crore to the Bihar State Cooperative Bank at concessional rate of interest. Out of above credit limis, an amount of Rs. 200.45 crore on behalf of 33 C.C.Bs. and the entire limit of Rs. 16 crore for Bihar S. C. B. have been drawn by the State Government. It is expected that credit limits sanctioned by NABARD would result in substantial increase in agricultural production.

Decline in Foodgrains Production

495. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains production for the year 1987-88 is likely to be increased by 10 to 15 million tonnes than that of the previous year; and

(b) if so, what steps particularly in the sphere of agricultural development, have since been initiated to make good the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir. The production of foodgrains during he year 1987-88 is likely to show a decline of 7 to 10 per cent as compepared to the production level of 144.1 million tonnes in 1986-87.

(b) The steps being taken to increase the agricultural production include:

(i) Maximisation of productivity in assured areas such as irrigated areas and rainfed areas with high rainfall;

(ii) Timely, and adequate supply of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilisers, implements, plant protection chemicals and credit etc., inclusive of imparting technology;

(iii) Increasing the coverage of area under High Yielding Varieties with proper plans for production and distribution of sufficient seeds;

(iv) Implementation of the National Programmes on Crops like Special Rice Production Programme in the Eastern States, National Pulses Development Programme and other Programmes on resource management through Small and Marginal Farmers Programme and National Watershed Development Programme;

(v) Adoption of integrated plant protection measures;

(vi) Increasing the intensity of cropping through double, multiple and inter-cropping;

(vii) Assuring remunerative prices for various food crops to the farmers and organisational support for sale of commodities at these prices.

Vacant Posts in the National Vocational Training Institute, New Delhi

496. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some posts of Assistant Training Officer/ Training Officer in cutting, tailoring and dressing, have been lying vacant in the National Vocational Training Institute, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi since long;

(b) if so, since when and what action has been taken to fill up these vacant posts, the number, out of them, of those which are reserved for SC/ST and those of the general category and by when these posts will be filled up; and

(c) what action is being contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) One post each of Assistant Training Officer and Training Officer are lying vacant since 7.9.1986 and 2.4.1987 respectively. The recruitment Rules for the separated cadre of Women's Vocational Training Programme are under finalisation. The roster for reservation of posts for SC/ST can be prepared only after finalisation of Recruitment Rules. The posts will be filled after the Recruitment Rules are notified.

Setting up of SAIL Wholesale Centre in Madhya Pradesh

497. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a new wholesale centre of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in Madhya Pradesh; if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the existing sale depots of the SAIL are considerd to be adequate to meet the requirements of the State;

(b) whether Government are aware that among the existing outlets, the sale depot at Indore is as good as closed for the last several months and despite repeated requests from various individuals and associations, it has not resumed its normal functioning; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Presently there is no proposal to set up any new stockyard of SAIL in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The existing 4 stockyards at Bhilai, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior are considered adequate to meet the requirements of the State.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The operations in the SAIL's stockyard at Indore have come to a stand still because of some Court cases pending in the High Court at Madhya Pradesh regarding appointment of handling contractors. However, the customers attached to Indore Branch are being serviced through other Branches viz. Nagpur, Bhilai and Jabalpur.